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For Immediate Release:
November 20, 2019

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**PVSC Installs Rain Collection Systems At District Schools In East Orange And Harrison
*Rain Gardens Reduce Pollution And Flooding***

Newark, NJ – Over the last six years, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) and the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program have worked with various municipalities to develop Green Infrastructure feasibility studies to identify rain-harvesting projects. Two such projects were completed this fall when PVSC and RCE completed rain collection system installations at Langston Hughes Elementary School in East Orange (left) and Washington Middle School in Harrison (right).



Both rain gardens collect stormwater from the rooftops that would otherwise puddle on playgrounds and eventually make it to nearby sewers, collecting trash and other forms of debris along the way. PVSC’s River Restoration Program, Line Operations Department and Pipe Shop teamed up to perform the installations.

“When rain falls on grass or other vegetation, the water is absorbed and filtered by soil and plants. However, when rain falls on asphalt or cement playgrounds, the rainwater cannot soak into the ground,” said PVSC Chairman Thomas Tucci, Jr. “In those cases, the rainwater must be properly managed to prevent flooding and remove pollution that the rainwater may have picked up from rooftops or paved surfaces. Together with RCE, we have worked with several communities and schools to construct rainwater harvesting systems in an effort to reduce flooding and pollution.”

At the Langston Hughes Elementary School, a 210-square-foot rain garden was constructed around an existing catch basin to collect rooftop runoff from four existing downspouts from the school. The team also installed a 265-gallon cistern to collect rooftop runoff for the students and faculty to use to water existing and future gardens.

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At the Washington Middle School, a 700-square-foot rain garden was constructed in the school’s courtyard to collect rooftop runoff from the school, as well as surface runoff from the existing sidewalk in the courtyard. The team also installed a 205-gallon cistern to collect rooftop runoff.

PVSC partnered with the RCE six years ago to pilot a Green Infrastructure Outreach and Technical Assistance Program. The program is designed to provide guidance and direction to the 48 municipalities in the PVSC service area regarding the benefits of implementing green infrastructure practices.

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